Children Working in Hazardous contions

2448 SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are 28 million child labourers in the country 23 per cent of whom are working in hazardous conditions; and

(b) if so, the measures Government propose to take to enforce the laws for their protection?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) According to the 43rd round (during July, 1987 June 1988) of the National Sample Survey, the number of child laborers in the country is estimated to be about 17 million. No authentic data is available regarding children working in hazardous conditions.

(b) The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits the employment of children below 14 years of age in certain specified excupations and processes. It also seeks to regulate their contions of work in employments in which they are not prohibited from work. There are provisions in several other labour laws such as Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1952, the Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act 1966 the Shops and Commercial Establishments Acts of the States/ Union Territories etc, which either prohibit or regulae the employment of children in specific areas The Government have also formulated the national policy on child labour, 1987 which provides for a number of welfare measures to minimise the exploitation of working children. Under the NCL Policy project based plan of action has been launched in 9 areas of high concentraion of child labour. Final assistance is also provided to voluntary agencies for taking up action-oriented projects for the benefit of child labour.

Enforcement of child labour legislation is principally the responsibility of the State Governments/administrations of Union Territories. They have been addressed from time to time to ensure strict enforcement of the laws. With a view to further strengthen the enforcement Machinery, 50 per cent financial assistance is given to State Governments under a centrally sponsored plan scheme.

National wage policy commission

2449. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering setting up of a National wage policy Commission on a permanent basis;

(b) whether Government have discussed this with the trade union; and

(c) if so, trade unions reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Convention of Human Rights

2450. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Convention on Human Rights, held in Delhi some-time ago, has suggested an Action Plan to end child labour and their exploitation; and

(b) what action Government have taken on the recommendations of this convention?